

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) A stator comprising:

a cylindrical iron core including a plurality of slots provided around an inner circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, a plurality of concave portions provided around an outer circumferential face of the cylindrical iron core, and a plurality of notch portions provided in an inner wall surface of some, but not all, of the slots; and

a coil disposed in the slots,

wherein each of the notch portions comprises a linear slit extending partially through the cylindrical iron core in a radial direction so that the cylindrical iron core has a lower radial crushing strength at the notch portion than at other portions of the cylindrical iron core, [[and]]

wherein the cylindrical iron core is formed of a helically wound band plate which includes the linear slits which are abutted and aligned, and

wherein the linear slits in adjacent layers of the cylindrical iron core are aligned.

Claims 12-15 (Canceled).